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May 19 2011 Meeting Minutes

Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes – Final May 19, 2011

Present: Marissa Briggett, Christine Carney, Vita Cohen, Gary Horowitz, Jorge Loayza, Nick Minton, Chair Nancy Rhoads, Nancy Sweeney **Absent:** Sheri Baron, Stacy Davison, Marlene Schultz, Bill Shea, Suzie Talukdar **Review of April Minutes** – Minutes accepted as amended **Incidents and Complaints** – Ms. Rhoads reported on the follow up the mediation held between school administrators and METCO parents. Present at the mediation were Steve Pereira, three METCO parents, Charles Skidmore, and Commissioners Rhoads, Davison and Talukdar. Kathy Bodie has said that there will be sensitivity training for administrators. It was also resolved that APS administrators will attend a meeting of METCO parents in Boston. The Commission will follow up in the fall regarding training. There was discussion surrounding the Commission's need to have a liaison to the METCO programs. The Commission received phone calls from an Arlington resident who had some issues and concerns surrounding housing. A complaint packet was mailed to him. Ms. Rhoads reported an incident that occurred in her son's soccer match against another town. A player had taunted her son with an inappropriate slur. Her husband had filed a complaint with the Arlington Soccer Club. There was an investigation but all denied anything had been untoward. Before the next practice, all players were spoken to. **Other Business** – The Commission decided to request one spot for town day in September. Two residents have asked whether the Commission planned to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of 9-11. The Commissioners discussed this and decided it was not something the Commission would undertake. Ms. Rhoads reported that there was going to be an interfaith educational event on June 26 at the Church of our Savior. Ms. Rhoads informed Commissioners that Commissioner Schultz is resigning from the Commission as she is moving out of Arlington.

Subcommittee Reports – Schools: There was discussion about the superintendent's need to foster diversity in the APS faculty and the urgent need to do so in light of the problems that were experienced by the METCO students at the high school. Frustration was expressed that Arlington has been unsuccessfully trying to diversify the teaching staff for years. **Goal Setting** – There was discussion about setting goals for the Commission. There was general discussion about how to best increase our outreach and to which groups. A further discussion regarding goals will follow at a future meeting. Motion to adjourn was made and approved. Submitted by: Marissa Briggett Commissioner

